

RESOLUTION 12-1

WHEREAS, there is still a critical need for reliable broadband access for Sangamon County; and

WHEREAS, the lack of access to broadband has disproportionately negative impact on the economic activities in rural and lower income areas. Businesses find it difficult to establish operations in areas lacking reliable broadband access and employees are not able to work remotely without that access; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to broadband will help grow the economy and provide opportunities for citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance will work with Finley Engineering for assistance in the broadband provider selection process; and

WHEREAS, Finley will counsel the Growth Alliance and county leaders on their ability to leverage county and local provider resources into a larger state grant request;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sangamon County Board, in session this 7th day of March, 2023, does hereby engage the SSGA to conduct phase 2 of a broadband feasibility study for Sangamon County for an amount not to exceed \$39,950.

Approved by the _____ Finance _____ Committee _____ March 7 _____, 2023 _____

_____, Chairman

Chairman, Sangamon County Board

ATTEST:

County Clerk

FILED

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Don / King
Sangamon County Clerk



**Sangamon County, Illinois
Broadband Provider Selection Proposal**

The specific tasks we will undertake as part of our work are identified below and represent what we feel are the important tasks to maximize the potential for Sangamon County to attract and qualify interested broadband providers.

Our proposal is to provide consulting services to Sangamon County to solicit internet service providers interested in providing robust broadband in Sangamon County, Illinois, evaluate technical solutions and capabilities proposed by the interested providers, and assist the County in determining the best solutions to ensure all of Sangamon County has broadband coverage.

Our invoicing would be monthly and only be for time spent actively working on this scope of work.

Total Estimated Costs: \$ 39,950

Breakdown of Costs by Deliverable:

• Provider and Solicitation Development	\$13,500
• Provider RFP Solicitation	\$3,700
• RFP Review and Team Support	\$14,300
• On-Site Consulting (3 visits)	\$4,950
• Travel and Incidentals (3 visits)	\$3,500

Sangamon County Broadband Provider Selection – Proposed Tasks

Proposed Consulting Services: Finley and CCG will take the area of the most need of broadband service identified in the feasibility study phase and complete the following identified tasks:

1. Prepare, revise, seek approval, and disseminate a solicitation to existing and prospective broadband providers to understand their interest, technical solutions, timelines for implementation, and financial viability to construct new broadband service within eligible areas of Sangamon County.
2. Consultant Team will conduct an in-person work session with Sangamon County leaders to review the draft solicitation, outline the process, and make recommendations to the staff for County Board consideration.
3. Review broadband provider proposals for viability and the best technical solution for complete broadband coverage in Sangamon County.
4. Compile a rubric outlining the respondents to the solicitation, including but not limited to: the type of provider, coverage areas, costs associated, assistance from the county, and the technical solutions for Sangamon County to consider supporting their project in pursuit of broadband funding from the State of Illinois or other sources.
5. Prepare presentations and narratives for the Growth Alliance and then for the Sangamon County Board that can be used in outreach meetings with the public, the Board, and interested providers.
6. Finley Engineering and CCG Consulting will provide counsel to the Growth Alliance and subsequently to the County leaders on their ability to leverage county and local provider resources into a larger state grant request. Thus, culminating in a determination of support for one (or multiple) project areas.



February 28, 2023

Ms. Abby Powell
Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance
531 E. Washington, 5th Floor
Springfield, IL 62701

Re: Sangamon County Broadband Provider Selection Proposal

Abby,

We are pleased to provide a Cost Proposal for assistance to the Growth Alliance and Sangamon County to solicit providers to be included in a county-wide broadband solution. The goal of this effort is to identify specific broadband providers willing and capable of providing broadband services that meet and exceed the broadband speeds identified in the upcoming funding programs; those projects that will construct 100/100Mb symmetrical broadband, with the opportunity available to consider solutions that can provide 100/20Mb but scalable as broadband demands change.

Finley Engineering and CCG Consulting can assist the Growth Alliance, the Broadband Review Team, and County officials in advancing broadband deployments throughout the areas identified as needing broadband service to fully maximize the funding allotted by the County for broadband expansion. Based on the desire of the County, the primary emphasis will be to support public-private partnerships and identify high-priority projects worthy of assistance. For the benefit of Sangamon County, the identified high-priority projects can then be prepared with the local support necessary to be prepared for upcoming funding opportunities from the State of Illinois Program (ARPA & Illinois Bond Fund), Capital Projects, and BEADS funding programs.

Let us know of any questions you may have regarding this engagement.

Sincerely,

Tim Arbeiter
Director – Consulting Services
Finley Engineering